

## Appendix A Maps



# Dry Creek Road Project 1:150000

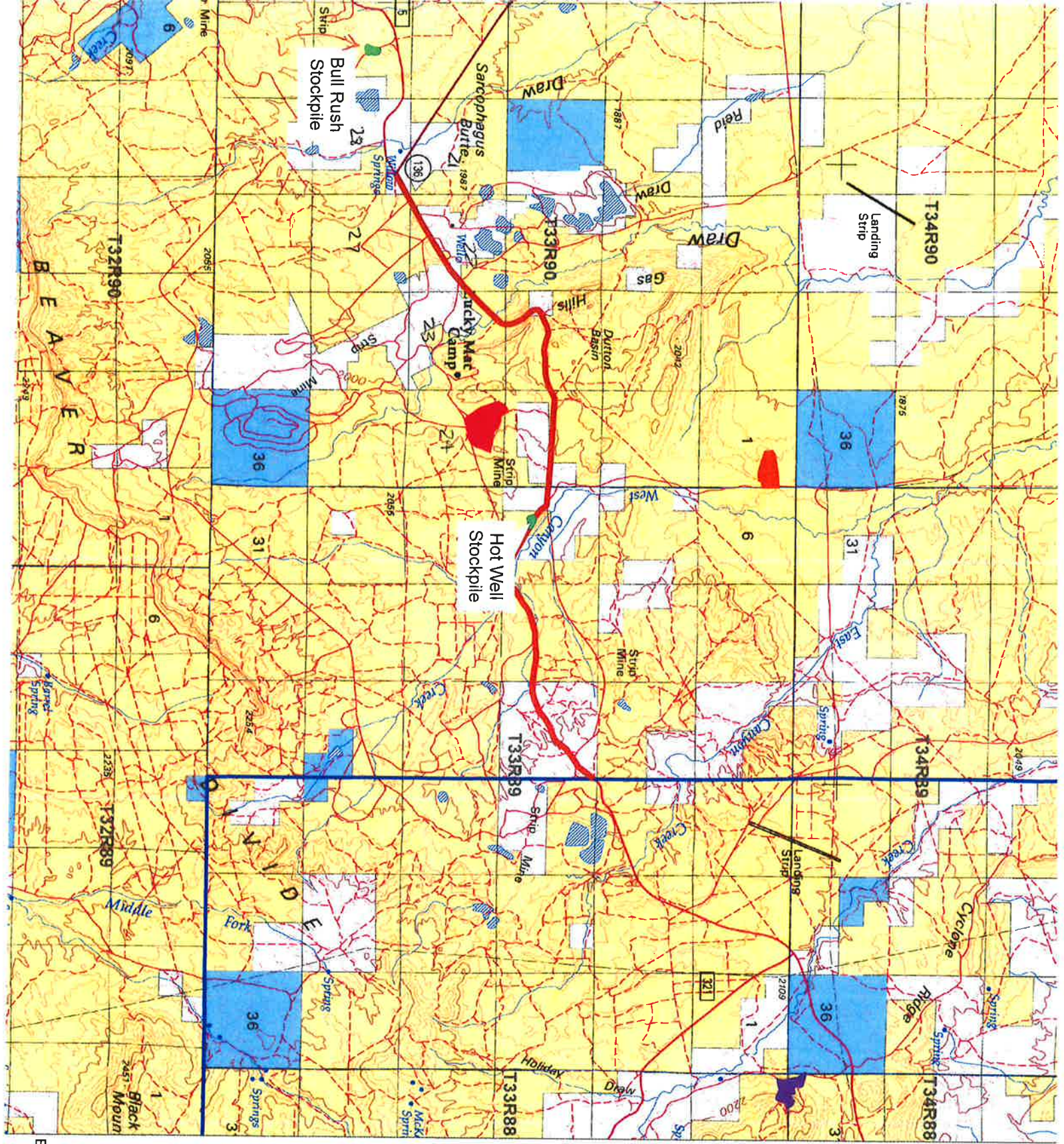
## Legend

- Stockpile Locations
- Umetco Clay Pit site
- Rattlesnake Quarry
- Pathfinder Quarry
- Dry Creek Road ROW

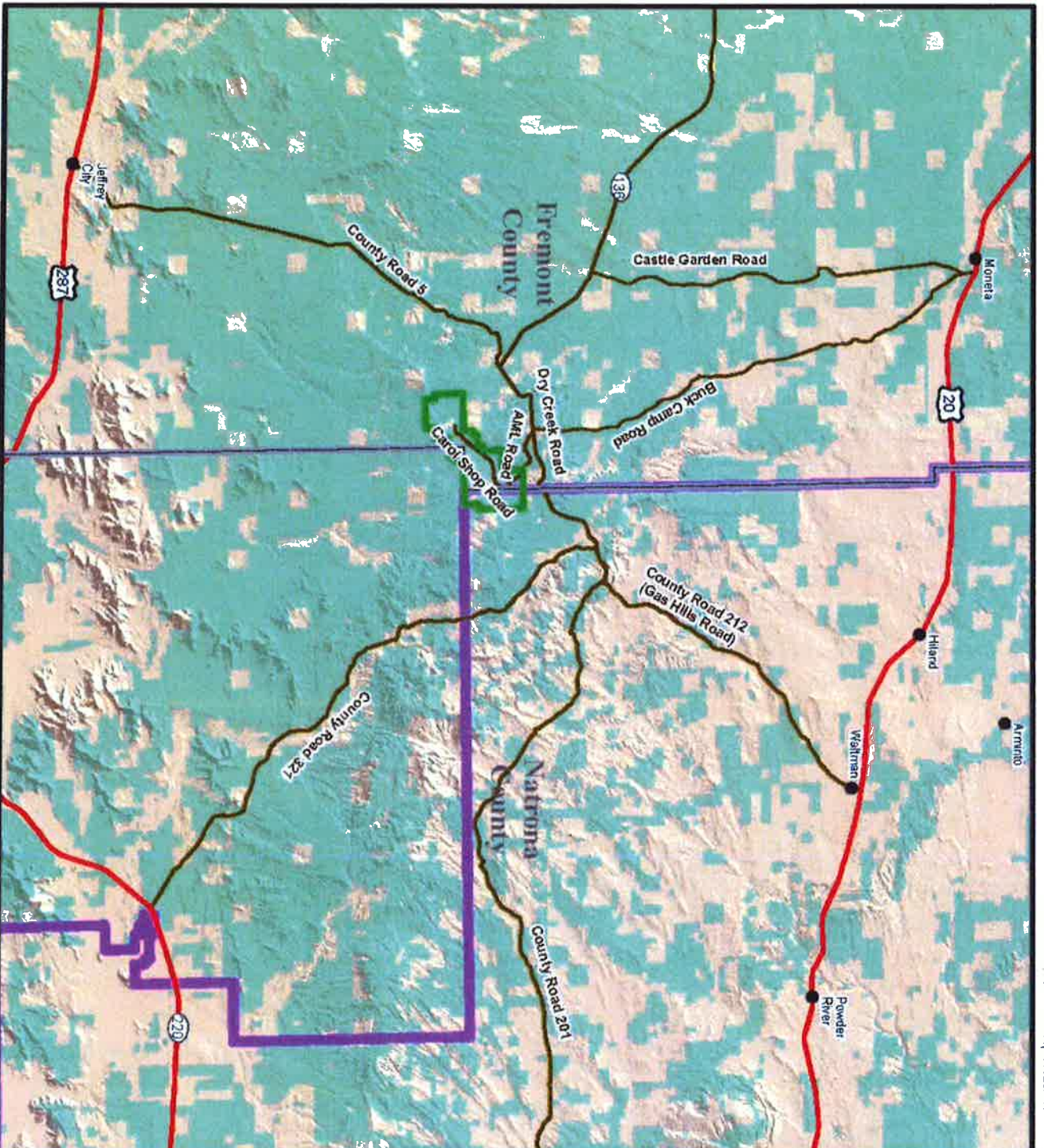


Date: 1/8/2016

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM







- County Boundary
- BLM FO Boundary
- Gas Hills Project Area
- Highway
- Road
- OHV Travel Management
- Limited to Existing Roads/Trails

3.75 1.875 0 3.75 7.5  
Scale in Miles

### Gas Hills Project

Figure 3.12-1  
Project Area  
Transportation Network

## **Appendix B Issues/Resources Not Carried Forward for Analysis**

### Recreation

Hunting is the primary recreational use of the Gas Hills area. While a road upgrade would modestly enhance hunting access, the current road condition is not typically an impediment since hunting occurs in the fall when the road is usually dry and passable. Accordingly, recreation use does not vary by alternative sufficiently to merit analysis.

### Livestock Grazing

Under both alternatives, the project area and the lands around it are open to livestock grazing; the Rattlesnake Quarry in the Matador Allotment and the balance of the project area is in the Gas Hills Allotment. Project disturbance under the Proposed Action is limited to areas that have been previously disturbed and the narrowing of the road will very slowly and over the long term improve vegetation. However, this improvement will not benefit livestock grazing in any meaningful way as it is a small component of the 60,000 acre Gas Hills Allotment. The ranchers in the area will have improved access under the Proposed Action but they have been able to operate successfully with the existing road conditions. Accordingly, there is no meaningful difference in impacts to livestock grazing between the alternatives.

### Oil and Gas

There are a number of oil and gas leases in the Gas Hills DDA and some operating oil and gas wells in addition to a number of plugged and abandoned wells. Specific information regarding the wells is available from the Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission through its webpage at: <http://wogcc.state.wy.us/wellapi.cfm?wsdl=2&napino=1320282>. Access to these wells, which are primarily on private lands, would be improved under the Proposed Action but access is not considered to be a limiting factor for operations or additional drilling. The likelihood of future oil and gas development does not vary by alternative.

### Mineral Development

Most of the DDA has been claimed for locatable minerals. The area has been extensively mined in the past and may be mined in the future. Cameco and other companies maintain their uranium claims although no exploration or mining is currently occurring. Uranium claims originally held by Strathmore and acquired by Energy Fuels were considered in identifying the location of the new road as described above. Extensive exploration has occurred in the past despite the degraded road conditions. As Cameco's letter indicates, market conditions will determine when

or if additional mining occurs. The BLM determined that the likelihood of future mineral development does not vary by alternative.

#### Realty Actions

The Gas Hills area is open for realty actions such as other rights-of-way or disposal actions. Both the Lander and Casper field offices have designated ROW corridors through the Gas Hills. The BLM did not identify any impacts to realty actions under either alternative.

#### Cultural/Paleontological Resources

The BLM determined that the application of protective stipulations under the Proposed Action would effectively avoid adverse impacts to cultural and paleontological resources including requiring that a paleontological specialist be on site during initial phases of construction. Therefore, there are no differences in impacts to these resources by alternative. The required stipulations are set forth in Appendix D.

#### Special Designations

There are no national trails, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, or areas of critical environment concern near to the project area. The closest area with a special designation is the Sweetwater Rocks WSA complex located approximately twenty miles to the south.

#### Fire and Fuels

Since at least 1974, the BLM has maintained a history of wildfire within the field offices. Although most rangelands are in an undesirable fire condition class and likely to be vulnerable to larger and more frequent wildfires (see LFO RMP EIS at Section 3.3.1), almost all fires larger than 100 acres have occurred in the 15- to 19-inch precipitation zone. For the last twenty years, only large fire was determined to be human caused. Thus, although access to the area would increase under the Proposed Action, the BLM determined that improved transportation would have no meaningful difference on wildfire which are almost always caused by lightning, usually in wooded, high elevation areas.

#### Wild Horses

The project area is near to the Muskrat Basin Wild Horse Management Area. Since the HMA is fenced, the BLM determined that there would be no impacts to wild horses under either alternative.

### Environmental Justice

The project area is in a remote part of Fremont and Natrona counties which have few inhabitants. There is no identified minority or low-income population in the area. Because of this, there are no identified disproportionate impacts resulting from either alternative.

### Economic/Social Impacts

The payment for construction services under the Proposed Action will have a minor, temporary benefit to the area's economy. On an area-wide basis, the benefit is not important.

The improvement in transportation under the Proposed Action is analyzed under health and safety. The BLM did not identify any social impacts unrelated to health and safety.

## **Appendix C Clearances**

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
LANDER FIELD OFFICE

8110  
050-2015-029 and  
050-2016-029

TO: Lands/Minerals Examiners

FROM: Craig Bromley, Archeologist

DATE: January 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Results of a Cultural Resource Inventory for **Fremont County Roads Department**  
(Case No. WYW-168232).

In July to October of 2014 and January of 2016, **LTA and BLM** conducted Class III and Class I inventories of the proposed **Dry Creek Road Modification in the Gas Hills Uranium District Project, Fremont and Natrona Counties, Wyoming** (Report Nos. **050-2015-029 and 050-2016-029**).

Justification for level of inventory conducted: **Most of the APE was inventoried at a Class III level by LTA. The remaining part of the project, the re-use of the Umetco Clay Pit Site, only needed a Class I review because only already disturbed lands would be affected. Together these two cultural inventories covered the entire proposed project.**

Legal Description: **T33N R88W Section 31  
T34N R88W Section 6  
T33N R89W Sections 16-18  
T33N R90W Sections 1,13,14,22,23,27,28**

Quad(s): **Gas Hills, Ervay Basin SW 7.5'**

Cultural resources found? No / / Yes /**X**/, #'s: **48FR120 (prehistoric campsite), 48FR1935 (historic Ervay to Muskrat Road), 48FR7023 (Historic Gas Hills Uranium District), 48FR7250 (historic B&B mining camp), 48FR7558 (historic Globe #3 and #6 Water Wells)**

N.R. Eligible resources found? No / / Yes /**X**/, #'s: **48FR7250**

N.R. Eligible resources affected? No /**X**/ Yes / /, #'s: \_\_\_\_\_

SHPO Concurrence with above granted?

Not necessary / / No / / Yes /**X**/, SHPO Ref. #: \_\_\_\_\_


Cultural clearance recommended? No / / Yes, with stipulations /**X**/

Recommended Stipulations:



3. **CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES STIPULATION**. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object or fossil) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder shall be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures shall be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

  
Field Archeologist, Lander

  
Field Manager, Lander

## Dry Creek Road Project

ROW WYW 168232

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The items below are the terms and conditions of this ROW for Weeds.

#### Existing Environment:

Spotted knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Russian knapweed, Salt Cedar, Canada thistle, Black Henbane and White Top in addition to Cheat grass are either found within the ROW or directly adjacent to the ROW (see attached map(s)). Spread of these species may be unavoidable and responsibilities of these terms and conditions will apply. Cooperation with BLM, private land owners and any State Lands for weed management plan will be necessary for proper noxious weed control. AML/Fremont County Roads will be responsible for any weeds listed as designated and declared noxious weeds by the Fremont County Weed and Pest.

**The Lander BLM Field Office Weeds Specialist must perform a weeds survey of the Bull Rush Stock Pile prior to the project due to its close proximity to known infestations of Spotted Knapweed and Leafy Spurge.**

AML/Fremont County Roads must file for a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) with the Lander BLM weeds specialist before February 29th of 2016 or opt to hire a private contractor with a valid PUP within the Lander BLM Field Office.

AML/Fremont County Roads will be responsible for managing all noxious and undesirable invading plant species in the ROW, including cheat grass and any other weeds species designated and declared noxious weeds by the Fremont County Weed and Pest. If noxious or invasive weeds are encountered, the BLM and/or the County Weed and Pest District would be consulted by AML/Fremont County Roads for suppression and control methods. A Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) and written approval from the Authorized Officer for the use of herbicides must be obtained prior to usage of herbicides.

Prior to any surface disturbing activities an invasive plant survey will be conducted by a qualified vegetation specialist. This assessment will show the location and species of invasive or noxious plants. These findings will be presented to the BLM.

Mobile equipment being transported from an offsite location to the ROW should be cleaned prior to arrival using water, steam, or air pressurized cleaning methods to remove any invasive or noxious weed seed and plant parts or materials that could contain seeds or plant parts. When appropriate, identify sites generally off public lands where equipment can be cleaned and seeds and plant parts can be collected and disposed of appropriately.

AML/Fremont County Roads will be responsible for suppression and/or control of any invasive or noxious plant species within the ROW. If chemical herbicide control methods are used on public lands,

only BLM approved chemicals and application methods will be permitted. A Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) must be submitted and approved by the BLM before initiating chemical control methods.

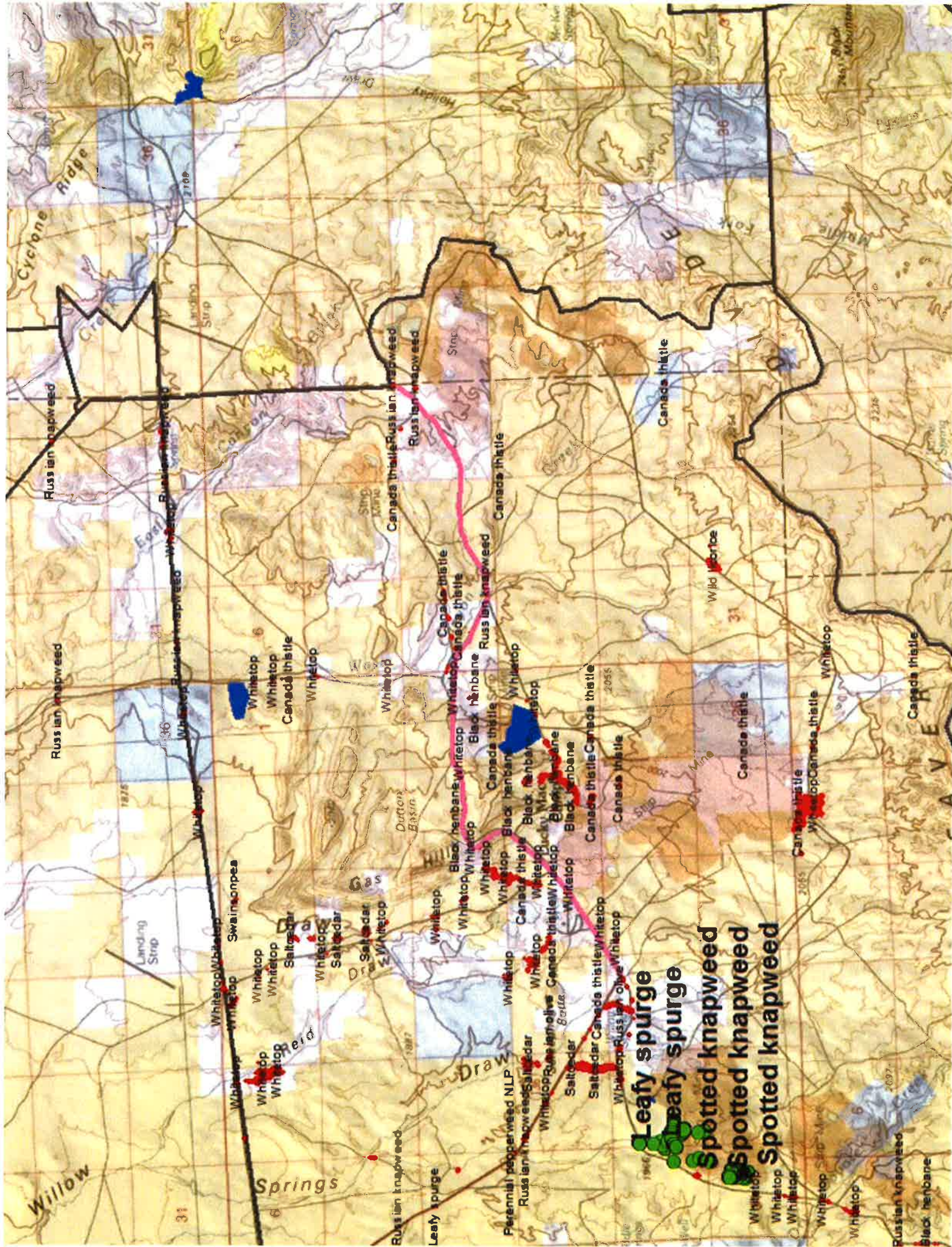
All mulch, seed and other vegetative reclamation materials must be certified weed free. All sand, gravel, and fill materials shall be certified weed free.

If weed species have been determined by the local BLM weed coordinator to encroach outside of the ROW and are determined a result of **AML/Fremont County Roads**, **AML/Fremont County Roads** will be responsible for the treatment and management of the weeds as long as the encroachment exists. In order for **AML/Fremont County Roads** to be released of this responsibility no plants shall be found in as many consecutive years as the seed viability for the particular plant species lasts.

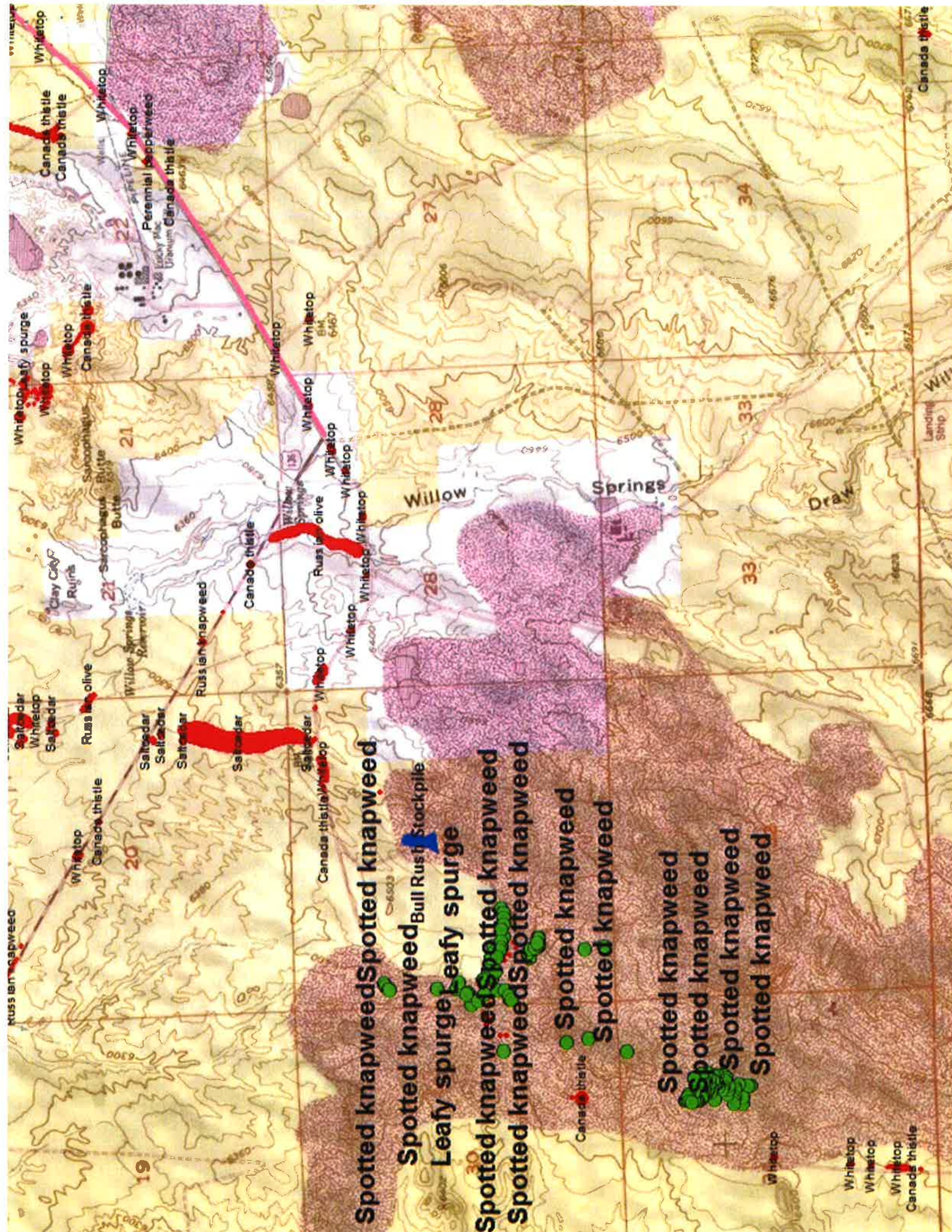
If determined by the BLM weed specialist that the project is responsible for the introduction of new weed species **AML/Fremont County Roads** will be responsible financially for the management. In order for the company or operator to be released of this responsibility no plants shall be found in as many consecutive years as the seed viability for the particular plant species lasts.

The species list of designated noxious weeds of the effected county would need to be controlled should they begin to grow in the ROW. Cooperation with private land owners and any State Lands for a weed management plan will be necessary for proper noxious weed control.









Spotted knapweed

Spotted knapweed

Leafy spurge

Spotted knapweed

Spotted knapweed

Spotted knapweed

Spotted knapweed

Spotted knapweed

Spotted knapweed

Spotted knapweed

Spotted knapweed



To: Jared Oakleaf, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Lander FO  
From: Debbie Larsen, Land Law Examiner  
Subject: Request for VRM and Recreation Evaluation

Request Date: January 26, 2016

Reference No. **Case No. WYW 168232 and TUP WYW 168232-01**  
(Include Appropriate Well, Lease, ROW, or Case No.)

Project or Company Name: Fremont County Commissioners

**Legal Description: T. 33 N., R. 89 W., sec. 17, 18;  
T. 33 N., R. 90 W., sec. 13, 14, 22, 23, 27.**

**Map Attached (Y)-(N)** and/or **GIS Shapefile Available (Y) (N)**

GIS Shapefile Storage Location M:\GISdata\planning\Incoming\Dry Creek Road\gis\_2dwg (1)  
Original Location which may have recently been moved.

**Project Description:**

Fremont County has applied for right-of-way for that portion of BLM administered lands from the Gas Hills Highway (136) to the Natrona County line. The road has been in use since the 1950's and was part of the Gas Hills mining activity. AML has been using the road more recently for reclamation activities. There are areas on each end of the road that were previously covered under other ROW's and that part not under a ROW was used as mine plan activities. The road is to be brought into county and BLM standards. There are additional areas needed as part of the permanent ROW for culverts, and drainage ditches. The county has requested 23 additional temporary work areas of 9.74 acres +/-, for a period of 4 years. Total length of the road is 7.57 miles of which 477 are on BLM administered lands and a permanent width of 100' with some wider areas for maintenance. See attached description and maps.

VRM Class I\_\_\_\_, Class II\_\_\_\_, Class III\_\_\_\_, Class IV X.

Recreation Management Area (RMA) Status:

Special RMA\_\_\_\_, Extensive RMA\_\_\_\_, None X

Comments/Stipulation: NA



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WILDLIFE CLEARANCE EVALUATION AND CONSULTATION FORM  
LANDER FIELD OFFICE

To: Wildlife Biologist  
From: Debbie Larsen, Land Law Examiner  
Subject: Request for Wildlife Clearance and Evaluation

**Company Name and/or Project Name:** Fremont County Commissioners

**Legal Location** T. 33 N., R. 89 W., sec. 17, 18;

T. 33 N., R. 90 W., sec. 13, 14, 22, 23, 27. (See attached map)

**Description of Proposed Action:** Fremont County has applied for right-of-way for that portion of BLM administered lands from the Gas Hills Highway (136) to the Natrona County line. The road has been in use since the 1950's and was part of the Gas Hills mining activity. AML has been using the road more recently for reclamation activities. There are areas on each end of the road that were previously covered under other ROW's and that part not under a ROW was used as mine plan activities.

The road is to be brought into county and BLM standards. There are additional areas needed as part of the permanent ROW for culverts, and drainage ditches. The county has requested 23 additional temporary work areas of 9.74 acres +/-, for a period of 4 years. Total length of the road is 7.57 miles of which 4.77 are on BLM administered lands and a permanent width of 100' with some wider areas for maintenance. See attached description and maps.

For a complete description of the proposed action, please see: R050-2016-0010 EA

GIS Shapefile Storage Location M:\GISdata\planning\Incoming\Dry Creek Road\gis\_2dwg (1)  
Original Location which may have recently been moved.

USGS Quad: **Gas Hills**

County: **Fremont; Connected Actions would be within Natrona County**

---

Response: Data Review and Determination of Impact on Wildlife Habitat and Special Status Species

To: Initiating Officer

This memo will become an appendix to the Environmental Documentation for this project. This proposal and relative data have been analyzed as to the impact of the proposed action.

**\*\*Coordination with Wyoming Game and Fish Department IS recommended during scoping. Additional coordination IS NOT needed due to unusual or excessive negative effects on big game, sage-grouse, riparian areas, fisheries, other priority species or potentially controversial actions.**

**Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species Clearance Form**

**Analysis Comments:** This project is proposed within a Designated Development Area. This analysis considers multiple components of the entire project including interrelated, interdependent and connected actions and cumulative effects.

These proposed and related activities would include:



Endangered  Interior Least Tern ( <i>Sternula antillarum</i> ) – Endangered  Piping Plover ( <i>Charadrius melodus</i> )– Threatened  Pallid Sturgeon ( <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> )– Endangered  Western Prairie Fringed Orchid( <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> ) – Threatened		NE       NE       NE       NE		No suitable habitat present OUTSIDE SPECIES' RANGE
Critical Habitat for: Whooping Crane		NE		Project is not within or in the vicinity of designated critical habitat for whooping crane
Gray wolf ( <i>Canis lupis</i> ) (Non-essential, experimental population)	Habitats with abundant ungulate prey, secluded (i.e. forested) denning and rendezvous sites, and low levels of human activity.	NE	NO	No suitable habitat present OUTSIDE SPECIES' RANGE

\*\*NE means, NO EFFECT.

There are no other federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species that have suitable habitat within the action area. There would NO EFFECT on any other federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species. There would be NO EFFECT to federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered species. No further analysis is needed. Section 7 consultation requirements are complete.

\*\*Initiation of FORMAL and INFORMAL Section 7 consultation with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service **IS NOT** necessary.



Wildlife Biologist

February 19, 2016

Date

### BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES and SPECIES, HABITATS/AREAS OF CONCERN

The 2011 analysis conducted by Tim Vosburg was assessed for its relevance to BLM Sensitive species and habitats/areas of concern and the project proposed action as it was presented today. For the majority of species, the 2011 analysis is still consistent and relevant. New species information was obtained on January 16, 2016. Where new information was available, those species were re-evaluated. Updates from the 2011 analysis, based on this new information, are highlighted in the table below in yellow.

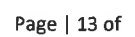


BLM Sensitive Species and Habitats/Areas of Concern	RMP Decision and COA SPATIAL RESTRICTION	RMP Decision TIMING RESTRICTION	DESIGNATED OR SUITABLE HABITAT IN PROJECT AREA	COA STIPULATION APPLIES
Greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> ) Core	4109: Limit the density of disturbance of an activity (oil and gas or mining) to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT.  The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances will not exceed 5 percent of suitable habitat of the DDCT area.  4110: See RMP for ROW in Core		NO	DDCT required: NO, not in Core habitat for greater sage-grouse
Greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> ) Core		4105: Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30	NO	NO
Greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> )  Core Area leks	4104: Prohibit surface-disturbing or surface occupancy on or within a 0.6 mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks  Keep any new roads or road upgrades 1.9 miles from the perimeter of the lek	4105: Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30  4107: Prohibit disruptive activities between 6 p.m and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 on or within a 0.6 mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks	NO	NO
Greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> )  Outside Core Area leks	4104: Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or surface occupancy within a 0.25 mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks	4105: Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 within 2 miles of the perimeter of occupied leks	NO; According to 2014 and 2015 lek GIS data, there are not leks within a ½ mile of the action area.	NO
Greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> )  Winter Concentration Areas	4108: Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in winter concentration areas, as they are identified.	4108: From December 1 to March 14, unless data indicate a date modification is necessary to better protect wintering greater sage-grouse	Possibly; USGS modeled winter habitat covers the majority of the action area. U of WY modeled winter concentration areas are mapped to the south of the action area; the data set is incomplete and does not include all of the LFO. Inference can be made to the action area, however, given the extent of historic	NO; The action area is not suitable winter concentration habitat for greater sage-grouse.  Consecutive years of winter surveys for signs (tracks, pellets) could be implemented to confirm modeled habitat. Surveys would need to follow pre-approved protocols and locations as determined by the project LFO Biologist.

			nest in prior years may not be an adequate measure of presence or activity.	<p>Biologist.</p> <p>Otherwise, apply the stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Best management practices would be to protect all active and inactive nest locations with a timing stipulation during the life of implementation since raptor species use alternate nests during different years. This raptor is very sensitive to noise, disruption and activity during the breeding season. Nest and chick abandonment would be expected.</p>
<p>American peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)</p> <p>Deeply incised canyons, tall cliffs or structures for eyries, open habitats up to 9 miles from eyries are used for foraging, &lt;10,000' elevation, breeds from March 20 to August 15</p>	<p>4071: Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within ¼ mile of active raptor nests.</p> <p>Distances and dates may vary based on raptor species, chick fledging, topography and other pertinent factors</p> <p>4077: Require seasonal restrictions or other identified mitigation as needed to minimize impacts to migratory birds and their habitats protected by MBTA.</p>	4071: From February 1 – to July 31	NO	NO
<p>Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)</p> <p>Lakes, rivers and other large water bodies suitable for foraging with large trees for nesting and roosting; Forested areas with large bodies of water, perches, mature large trees, &lt;8000' elevation, requires a ½ mile nest and ½ mile winter roost spatial buffer, breeds from January 1 to August 10</p>	<p>4093: Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities are prohibited within 1 mile of a bald eagle nest.</p> <p>Implement conservation measures, terms and conditions, appropriate BMPs, Required Design Features and Reasonable and Prudent Measures within existing state programmatic Biological Opinions:</p> <p>T&amp;C1: Foraging/ concentration areas year-round 2.5 miles from nests:</p> <p>T&amp;C2: Communal winter roosts ,1 mile NSO and timing restriction from Nov 1 – April 1</p> <p>T&amp;C2: No ground disturbing activities within 0.5 miles of active roost sites year round.</p> <p>T&amp;C8: Known bald eagle nests, communal winter roosts, and concentration areas will be assumed active is status has not been verified.</p>	<p>4093: For nests, from February 1 to August 15.</p> <p>T&amp;C1: For feeding/concentration areas around nests</p> <p>T&amp;C2: For communal winter roosts 1 mile timing restriction From Nov 1 – Mar 31</p>	NO	NO

	<p>riparian-wetland areas except to benefit watershed health or vegetation.</p> <p>2029: Apply a riparian-wetland setback greater than 500 feet where NEPA analysis determines that a longer distance is needed to protect riparian-wetland resources.</p> <p>4031: In DDAs, prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water, riparian-wetland areas, and playas unless on a site-specific basis a lesser distance is shown to provide equivalent protection.</p> <p>4032: Design ROW water channel crossings to limit impacts to riparian-wetland areas.</p> <p>(NOTE: The 2014 RMP glossary excluded ephemeral streams, washes that lack wetland plants. Wetland plants are those described as Obligate Wetland, Facultative Wetland, Facultative, or Facultative Upland as listed in the <u>US Army Corp of Engineer's National Wetland Plant List</u> for this region or the <u>State of Wyoming</u>.)</p>		<p>be prohibiting water from flowing south of 10-999. The wetlands and West Creek corridor are located between 150 to 270 feet approximately from the existing used route and the proposed route, and over 1400 feet from the proposed clay site. In its present condition, the road prohibits safe passage and connectivity of wildlife species that utilize ephemeral and perennial drainages for movement as well as habitat.</p> <p>And</p> <p>NO; The large pond located on the western portion of the ½ mile action area (showing as a wetland on the NWI map) is actually a waste water holding pond from mine operations. This holding pond is not suitable riparian-wetland host sites for special status species.</p>	<p>Wetland Inventory dataset. See maps below.</p> <p>Yes, with modification: Install an aquatic/terrestrial wildlife passage large enough to accommodate a coyote or larger mammal, low and high water passage on the segment of West Creek that intersects the proposed road alignment to allow connectivity, safe passage of several special status and other wildlife species and provide opportunity for water to flow and vegetation to exist within historic natural variability.</p> <p>Ensure equipment, supplies, materials and other infrastructure are located/staged 500 feet from mapped and field identified riparian-wetlands and associated corridors.</p> <p>Recommended: Find an alternative location for the proposed stockpile site that would be located over 500 feet from West Creek. Alternative staging locations would be determined with field consultation by the project LFO Biologist during implementation.</p>
--	--	--	---	--







N  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100



Half-Mile Action Area for Analysis



Sage Grouse Winter Habitat

# Greater sage-grouse Winter Habitat USGS Modeled Data

WYW168232 and WYW168232-01

0 0.5 1 2  
Miles



NOTE TO MAP USERS  
No warrantee is made by the  
Bureau of Land Management  
as to the accuracy, reliability,  
or completeness of the data  
layers shown on this map. The  
official land records of the data  
providers should be checked  
or current status on any  
specific tract of land.

BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES	HABITAT	POTENTIAL or Suitable HABITAT Present In Project Area	RMP Decision and COA	COA /TLS/ STIPULATION APPLIES
<b>BATS:</b>  Long-eared Myotis ( <i>Myotis evotis</i> )  Spotted bat ( <i>Euderma maculatum</i> )  Townsend's Big-eared bat ( <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> )  Fringed myotis ( <i>Myotis thysanodes</i> )	Conifer and deciduous forest, caves and mines Cliffs over perennial water, basin-prairie shrub Forests, basin-prairie shrub, caves and mines  Desert specialist, cliffs, structures, tree cavities, arid <6000' elevation Caves, mines, rock crevices, structures, tree cavities, edge habitats 6100 -9500' elevation in dry to mesic forests  Fir-pine forests, ponderosa pine, piñon pine, juniper woodlands with snags, Gambel oak, interspersed with open deserts, shrubs, grasslands, edges and abundant water sources, 3900 to 10,000' elevation, caves, mines, rock crevices, structures	Yes; USGS modeled year-round habitat, foraging, there are no sites within the ½ mile action area that would be suitable for maternity roosts, hibernacula or bachelor roosts.  NO  Yes; USGS modeled year-round habitat, foraging, there are no sites within the ½ mile action area that would be suitable for maternity roosts, hibernacula or bachelor roosts.  Yes; USGS modeled year-round habitat, foraging, there are no sites within the ½ mile action area that would be suitable for maternity roosts, hibernacula or bachelor roosts.	4095: Prohibit surface disturbing and disruptive activities within ¼ mile of identified maternity roosts and hibernation areas that would adversely impact bats.	NO; Foraging habitat and behavior would not be affected.  NO  NO; Foraging habitat and behavior would not be affected.  NO; Foraging habitat and behavior would not be affected
<b>PRAIRIE DOGS:</b>  White-tailed ( <i>Cynomys leucurus</i> )	Basin prairie shrub, grasslands	YES, as of 2014 data, 2 small active colonies present, 3 inactive or unoccupied colonies present. Status of prairie dog colonies may change over time and its current activity status is unknown. Active colonies may be located between 0.2 and 0.3 mile from the proposed road alignment.  A staging area/stock piling area is proposed right on top of a prairie dog colony that is adjacent to a perennial creek/wetland that provides good forage and access to water. The colony was not active in 2014 but its current status is	4092: Avoid surface-disturbing activities in occupied white-tailed prairie dog colonies where possible.	Possibly; annual surveys should be done to determine the current status of known colonies during the lifetime of implementation, to the best of the agency's ability. Surveys would need to follow pre-approved protocols and locations as determined by the project LFO Biologist. If surveys determine activity, then the stipulation would be needed, as recommended by project LFO Biologist.  Recommended modification of stipulation: Ensure equipment, supplies, materials and infrastructure are located/staged 500 feet from all known or mapped prairie dog colonies. Alternative staging locations would be determined with field

			breeding/nesting mountain plovers, and include a ¼ mile buffer.	<p>project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Otherwise, apply stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Recommended stipulation is to avoid vegetation removal, soil work and construction between march 5 and July 31</p>
<p><b>BLM SENSITIVE SAGEBRUSH OBLIGATES:</b></p> <p>Sage Thrasher (<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>)</p> <p>Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)</p>	<p>Basin-prairie shrub, mountain foothill shrub; large expanses of the tallest, densest sagebrush with good nesting cover, ground forager for insects, shrub nesting, migratory, breeds May 10 to August 5</p> <p>Basin-prairie shrub, mountain foothill shrub; Insect eater, aerial dive hunting, tree nesting, migratory, prefers mountain grasslands, breeds from April 10 to August 20</p>	<p>YES; USGS modeled spring/summer habitat for breeding &amp; foraging</p> <p>YES; USGS modeled spring/summer habitat for breeding &amp; foraging</p>	<p>4077: Require seasonal restrictions or other identified mitigation as needed to minimize impacts to migratory birds and their habitats protected by MBTA.</p>	<p>Possibly; Surveys should be done during the breeding season to detect signs of breeding at known and suspected sites within the action area, to the best of the agency's ability. Positive detection of signs of breeding would require the stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist. Surveys would need to follow pre-approved protocols and locations as determined by the project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Otherwise, apply stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Recommended stipulation is avoid vegetation removal, soil work and construction between May 10 and August 5</p> <p>Possibly; Surveys should be done during the breeding season to detect signs of breeding at known and suspected sites within the action area, to the best of the agency's ability. Positive detection of signs of breeding would require the stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist. Surveys would need to follow pre-approved protocols and locations as determined by the project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Otherwise, apply stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Recommended stipulation is avoid</p>

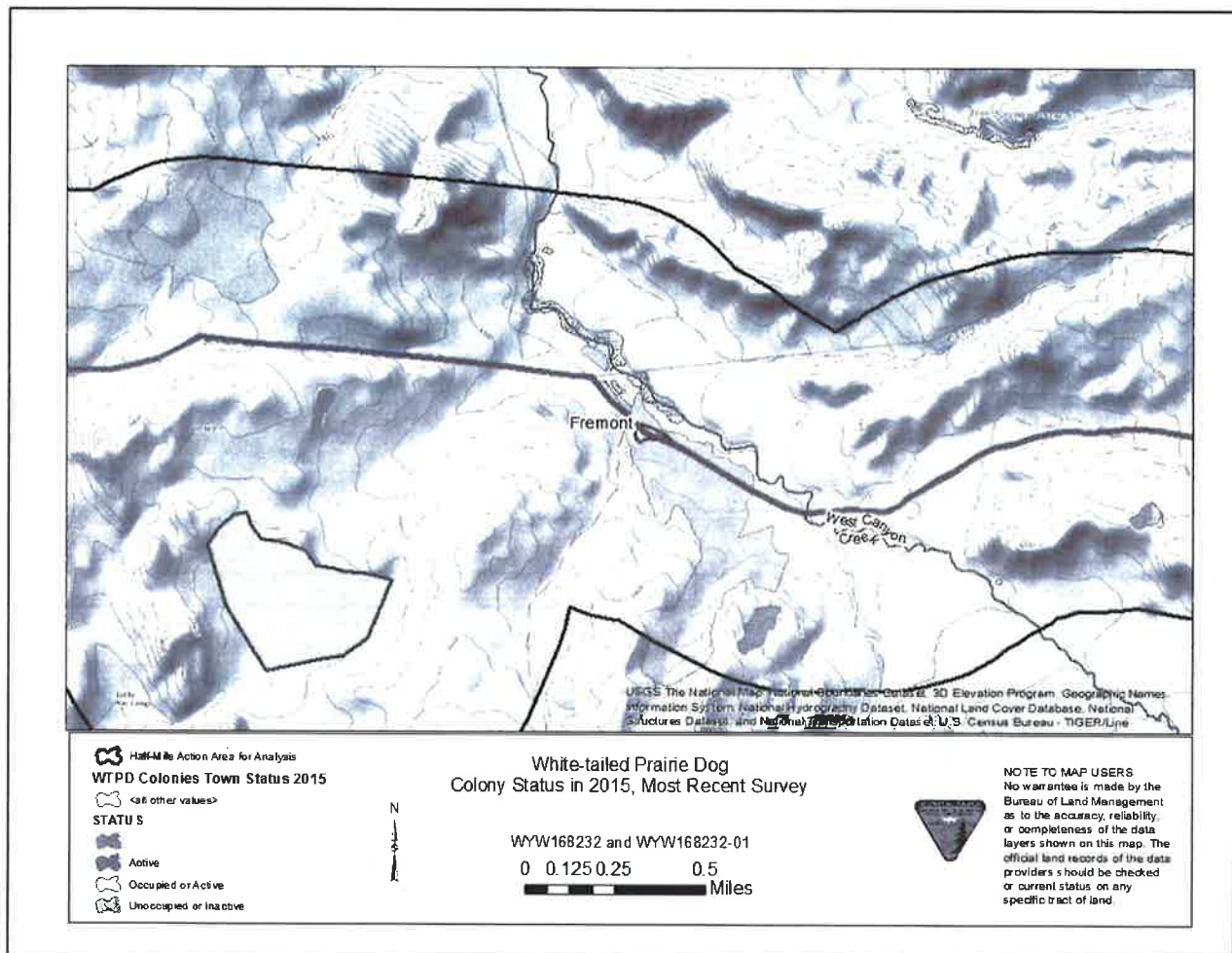


	<p>sufficient sagebrush cover for hiding and browse and bunch grass/forbs for forage; primary excavator and secondary burrows. May burrow in pipelines; breeding may occur up to 5 times per season from January to June (peak is March); uses riparian corridors, alluvial fans and tall sagebrush flats for dispersal and connectivity.</p>	<p>inventory surveys in the LFO were incomplete; non-detection does not necessarily indicate absence. Occupancy is assumed in sites supporting tall sagebrush, in riparian corridors, in prairie dog colonies and other locations where burrows may be present.</p>		<p>occurrence within 200 feet of all vegetation removal, construction and soil work proposed, to the best of the agency's ability. Follow up observation surveys would be needed. Surveys would need to follow pre-approved protocols and locations as determined by the project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Otherwise, apply stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Recommended stipulation is to avoid vegetation removal, construction and soil work in areas where loose loamy soils co-occurs with sagebrush that is over 1.5 feet in height- typically found in riparian corridors, provide a 0.75 mile buffer around known and suspected burrows, and impose a timing restriction between January and June during the breeding season. Also recommended to install wildlife passages along West Creek.</p> <p>If surveys result in positive detection, then the stipulation would apply, as recommended by project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Best management practices would be to avoid both active and inactive prairie dog colonies, for pygmy rabbit and a variety of other species that utilize burrows.</p>
<p><b>OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS</b></p> <p>Other migratory birds- many ground and shrub nesting species may be present within the ½ mile action area: red-tailed hawk, vesper</p>			<p>4077: Require seasonal restrictions or other identified mitigation as needed to minimize impacts to migratory birds and their habitats protected by MBTA</p>	<p>Possibly; Surveys should be done during the breeding season to detect signs of breeding at known and suspected sites within the action area, to the best of the agency's ability. Positive detection of signs of breeding would require the stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist. Surveys</p>

			travel on a case by case basis.	
Great Basin spadefoot ( <i>Spea intermontana</i> )	Spring seeps, permanent and temporary waters	YES		<p>Possibly; Recommend application of riparian/wetland buffer: Move Project &gt; 500 feet from streams/surface water, wetlands, fens, seeps and springs.</p> <p>Or, design the road and infrastructure and placement of materials to accommodate for species' natural history, such as installing aquatic passages, minimize soil sedimentation and deposition, re-vegetate affected areas with native locally adapted wetland/riparian plants, implement when species are dormant etc.</p> <p>Or, recommend surveys for signs or suitable habitat, to the best of the agency's ability. Positive detection of signs of breeding would require stipulation, as recommended by project LFO Biologist. Surveys would need to follow pre-approved protocols and locations as determined by the project LFO Biologist</p>
Boreal toad (Northern Rocky Mtn. population) ( <i>Bufo boreas boreas</i> )	Pond margins, wet meadows, riparian areas.	NO		
Spotted frog ( <i>Rana luteiventris</i> )	Ponds, sloughs, small streams	YES		<p>Possibly; Recommend application of riparian/wetland buffer: Move Project &gt; 500 feet from streams/surface water, wetlands, fens, seeps and springs.</p> <p>Or, design the road and infrastructure and placement of materials to accommodate for species' natural history, such as installing aquatic passages, minimize soil sedimentation and deposition, re-vegetate affected areas with native locally adapted wetland/riparian plants, implement when species</p>

Porter's Sagebrush ( <i>Artemisia porteri</i> )	Sparsely vegetated badlands of ashy or tuffaceous mudstone and clay slopes Elevation: 5,300 – 6,500 feet; flowers early June to late July	NO		NO
Meadow Milkvetch ( <i>Astragalus diversifolius</i> )	Moist, often alkaline meadows, esp. at fringes of playa landscapes, and swales in sagebrush valleys or closed drainage basins (4400-6620 Ft.); flowers late June to late July	NO		NO
Dubois Milkvetch ( <i>Astragalus gilviflorus</i> var. <i>purpureus</i> )	Barren shale, badlands, limestone, and redbed slopes and ridges 6,900' – 8,800'; flowers late May to mid July	NO		NO
Limber Pine ( <i>Pinus flexilis</i> )	Timberline and at lower elevation with sagebrush. Associated species are Rocky Mountain lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, whitebark pine, Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, Rocky Mountain juniper, Mountain Mahogany, and common juniper	NO		NO
Cedar Rim Thistle ( <i>Cirsium aridum</i> )	Barren, chalky hills, gravelly slopes and fine-textured, sandy/shaley draws 6,700' – 7,200'; flowers early June to late July	NO		NO
Many-stemmed spider-flower ( <i>Cleome multicaulis</i> )	Whitish, alkali-rich, strongly hydrogen-sulfide scented soils bordering shallow, spring-fed playa lakes or dried lakebeds. Most abundant on damp, but not flooded, flats; flowers June to August	YES; modeled habitat		<p>Possibly; Surveys should be done during this species' flowering period within suitable habitat in the ½ mile action area to confirm presence, to the best of the agency's ability. Surveys would need to follow pre-approved protocols and locations as determined by the project LFO Biologist.</p> <p>Recommended stipulation is to flag and avoid plants where possible. Alternatively, the project LFO Biologist would work with the State Botanist to collect plants and/or seed for grow operations prior to ground disturbance.</p>

Fremont County rockcress ( <i>Boechera pusilla</i> )	Candidate species, endemic to South Pass in Fremont County, found in cracks and crevices of huge metamorphosed rock, only known locations are outside of LFO boundary; surveys are incomplete, flowers May to mid June	NO		NO
---	--	----	--	----



*With Just the Stipulations*

With the application of just the stipulations, without the recommendations and without the surveys, it is unlikely that the project could be implemented due to the overlap of the timing restrictions. Under this scenario, there would be no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to on burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, antelope while on crucial winter range, white-tailed prairie dog, pygmy rabbit, *Cleome multicaulis*, *Rorippa calycina*. Minor mixed effects to riparian-wetlands would continue, with the barrier continuing to exist which appears to impede water flow, riparian associated vegetation downstream and safe passage of many wildlife species north and south through the riparian corridor. Implementation with the stipulations would not affect the populations across the planning area and would not cause a trend towards listing for these special status species.

*With the Stipulations and Recommendations*

With the stipulations and recommendations, there would be no direct or indirect effects on burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, antelope while on crucial winter range, white-tailed prairie dog, pygmy rabbit, *Cleome multicaulis*, *Rorippa calycina*, and minor effects on riparian-wetlands.

Minor effects to riparian-wetlands could be from deposition and soil erosion from truck traffic, maintenance and grading, etc. Wildlife species that depend on those areas could see a decreased quality of habitat. With the removal of the segment of the route that intersects West Creek, there is a potential for some wetlands to dry. This could cause a loss of wetland dependent habitat for species that depend on those environments. The quality of these wetlands is not known. This action may require off-site mitigation or wetland banking with a 404 permit.

At the same time, the wetlands are believed to be artificially created from the barrier caused by the existing route. Removal of this barrier would allow more water to flow downstream, increase the amount and extent of riparian associated vegetation and wildlife habitat for a variety of special status and other wildlife species that depend on such environments. The passages would allow wildlife to use the riparian corridor for movement with limited collision potential. This would facilitate dispersal across the DDA to areas that provide more suitable habitat north and south, and increase connectivity for special status species, and movement towards historic natural variability.

Since application of the timing restriction stipulations would make implementation schedule near impossible, surveys are highly recommended for ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, and white-tailed prairie dog. Surveys are recommended for pygmy rabbit, though in limited locations and only in suitable habitat that is within 200 feet of the proposed sites. Surveys would determine the need for the stipulation to be applied and the location of those stipulations. Because there would be no direct or indirect effects, there would be no cumulative effects to burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, antelope while on crucial winter range, white-tailed prairie dog, pygmy rabbit, *Cleome multicaulis*, *Rorippa calycina*. Implementation of these recommendations would not cause a trend towards listing for these special status species.

These recommendations are best management practices to meet the intent of the stipulations provided in the RMP.

Date of Field Visit: \_\_\_\_\_NA\_\_\_\_\_

Photos Attached: YES or NO

\_\_\_\_\_ 

Wildlife Biologist

February 19, 2016

(DATE)